



The

MARKETPLACE

For Recycling Commodities

Kentucky Recycling Assistance Section

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APR Releases Answers to FAQ on Caps on Recycled Plastic Bottles

The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR) asks that caps and closures be kept on plastic bottles and containers at the point of recycling. This will come as a change for many communities. Below are some of the frequently asked questions (FAQ) about caps-on recycling:

But I've always heard that the plastic recyclers needed caps to be taken off?

Until recently the plastics recycling industry was not able to effectively recycle bottles with caps on so the message to remove the cap was created. But recycling collection and processing technology has improved and demand for the recyclable material has increased and this allows for the updated caps-on recycling message and process. This important development is expected to be permanent.

Why make the change?

Two key reasons: First, when recycling gets easier, participation goes up. APR is dedicated to boosting participation in recycling programs. Second, the cap material is recyclable. Why dispose of something that could be recycled? The cap back on reduces odor and other issues with keeping bottles in homes until collection day for the less-than-pristine used food bottles.

Are recycled caps marketable?

Yes. Generally caps are made out of high density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP)—both of these have high demand from applications in both domestic and export markets.

Who is in charge of unscrewing all those caps during the recycling process?

No one. Bottles are ground into flake before being vigorously washed in the recycling process. The washed cap material is then separated from the bottle material during a water bath float/sink process. The PET bottle material will sink; the PP cap material will float. Both materials are then recycled into new items.

Can bales of bottles with caps on be marketed at the same rate as bales without caps?

Yes. APR's model bale specifications do not downgrade for the inclusion of caps. APR member

companies regularly buy and recycle bales of caps-on containers.

Can I get a good bale compaction rate with caps on the bottles?

Good bale density is important—too light and it's hard to hit load requirements. Too tight and the material is over compacted. While the answer varies by the type of baler, generally speaking 100-120 psi of pressure should allow most balers to compress plastic bottles with caps on. Large-scale 2 ram systems should have no trouble as they often range in the 150-300+ psi range. A single ram, closed door baler usually operates at 70-120 psi. While larger balers of this format should be fine, those running at the low end of that range will generally have trouble securing a good bale. A single ram extrusion auto tie also needs to operate more at 100-120 psi range but there's some finesse needed. By running a load of cardboard before the bottles, the operator then gains something hard to push against and should be able to reach compaction.

Will the caps shoot off during baling?

APR strongly suggests all baler safety equipment such as guards be left untampered, unmodified and unchanged to prevent incidents and accidents. Puncturing polyethylene (PET) bottles in a baler can create projectiles and baler manufacturers have included the guards for worker protection.

My MRF says that they do not accept caps on plastic containers. What should I do?

Please let them know that APR has announced a call for caps and closures to remain on containers at the time of recycling. Please feel free to share this information or direct your MRF officials to: www.plasticsrecycling.org. We understand that for some MRFs accepting caps on is readily done and for some it is a challenge.

My community says they are not yet ready to accept caps on plastic containers. What should I do?

APR anticipates that this process will take time. While the marketing of bales of plastics including caps and closures is an accepted practice, the equipment and policies at the local level may take time to adapt. Please feel free to share this information or direct your community officials to: www.plasticsrecycling.org.

Scrap Metal Theft Concern Hits U.S. Senate

According to an article recently published in *Resource Recycling*, the issue of metal theft has caught the attention of New York's senior U.S. senator, who has introduced legislation meant to clamp down on the problem by improving new requirements on scrap yards.

A statement from U.S. Senator Charles Schumer quotes law enforcement officials saying that the problem in New York has reached epidemic proportions with thieves creating serious safety hazards by ripping off increasingly valuable metal from critical infrastructure. Nothing made of metal is off limits for thieves, according to the statement, with manholes, school bleachers, playground equipment disappearing. Metal thieves have even targeted cemeteries.

The legislation introduced by the New York Democrat would make stealing metal from critical infrastructure a federal crime and would also require more stringent documentation for sellers and buyers of scrap metal. People wanting to see scrap metal that would likely be owned by government entities or companies would be required to indicate whether they own or are authorized to see their metal. Companies buying metal would be required to keep records of all purchases, including the date, a description of the item, the amount paid and the name and address of the seller.

Copper Recycling Market Expected to Improve

According to *Resource Recycling*, several analysts suggest that recycling markets for recovered red metal will slowly improve. These analysts took part in a commodity session recently in Chicago sponsored by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.

The copper market and how the metal's value is determined have changed drastically over the past

few years. Marc Gascon of LaFarga Group in Spain notes, "China now determines consumption but the commodity exchanges determine the price." LaFarga produces 200,000 tons per year of copper products.

In a similar vein, Matt Levine of Leonard Levine Metals pointed out how current markets are affected by the recent substantial growth in copper trading. "Electronic trading on the commodity exchanges increases price risk in copper," he noted. He told the audience that "the best way to mitigate risk in this market is to quickly buy and sell, and don't try to analyze the price."

Jason Schenker of Prestige Economics offered an optimistic copper market assessment. "I am bullish on copper for 2013 and beyond," he stated. However, in terms of the current copper market, he was slightly less optimistic. "Demand dynamics have been affected by concern about eurozone growth."

As well, he explained that "the dollar's strength has dampened the copper price . . . and the dollar is posed for another slide." He also pointed out that a number of supply constraints currently exist.

While he offered some caution, Schenker feels that copper market conditions will improve. "The global economy is expanding at a modest pace," he says. Schenker sees global GDP to be up 3.5 percent next year, versus 3.0 percent for 2012. Chinese GDP growth will rise from 8.4 percent, and this should help push scrap prices up.

Creative Recycling Systems

The e-Scrap contract period for January 2009 through August 2012 brought the total pounds collected to 10,714,991 lbs. or 5,358 net tons. Reimbursements climbed to \$388,376.48, with charges of \$116,186.58. The net revenue to generators for the period was \$271,809.75.

Contact Tom Heil at 502-564-6716, ext. 4640 or at Thomas.Heil@ky.gov and click on <http://waste.ky.gov/RLA/recycling/Pages/ElectronicsRecycling.aspx> if you have questions about electronic recycling.



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COMMODITY	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Sep-11
<u>PAPER-\$/TON</u>	Official Board Markets (Chicago area) FOB							
-	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Sep-11
#2 mixed paper	\$75-80	\$75-80	\$70-75	\$70-75	\$60-65	\$50-55	\$35-40	\$110-120
#37 sorted office paper (SOP)	\$140-150	\$135-145	\$135-145	\$145-155	\$165-175	\$165-175	\$155-165	\$260-270
#6 ONP	\$30-35	\$30-35	\$135-146	\$30-35	\$30-35	\$30-35	\$15-20	\$60-65
#8 ONP	\$90-95	\$90-95	\$135-147	\$90-95	\$80-85	\$70-75	\$60-65	\$120-130
#40 sorted white ledger (SWL)	\$250-260	\$250-260	\$135-148	\$240-250	\$240-250	\$240-250	\$220-230	\$330-340
#11 OCC	\$105-115	\$105-115	\$135-149	\$90-100	\$90-95	\$75-80	\$60-65	\$150-160
<u>PLASTICS-¢/LB.</u>	Market sources serving KY & Waste and Recycling News Commodity Pricing - FOB							
-	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Sep-11
#1 PET - mixed (clear & green)	\$0.26	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.21	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.19	\$0.32
#2 HDPE (natural-milk jugs)	\$0.37	\$0.39	\$0.37	\$0.31	\$0.28	\$0.30	\$0.31	\$0.36
#2 HDPE (colored-detergent bottles)	\$0.29	\$0.33	\$0.30	\$0.24	\$0.21	\$0.24	\$0.25	\$0.20
<u>GLASS-\$/TON</u>	Waste and Recycling News Commodity Pricing - Delivered							
-	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Sep-11
clear (flint)	\$32.00	\$33.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$33.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00
brown (amber)	\$22.00	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$21.00
green	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
<u>METALS</u>	Waste and Recycling News Commodity Pricing - Delivered							
-	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Sep-11
aluminum beverage cans (UBC) cents/lb.	\$0.85	\$0.79	\$0.76	\$0.73	\$0.70	\$0.69	\$0.71	\$0.91
	Waste and Recycling News Commodity Pricing - Delivered							
	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Sep-11
steel cans \$/TON	\$120-130	\$120-130	\$120-130	\$120-130	\$110-120	\$120-140	\$110-120	\$115-120



Energy and
Environment Cabinet

Kentucky Recycling & Marketing Assistance

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